Citizens Advisory Committee for
Mayor-Council Transition

Attn: Council Committee on Mayor-Council Transition
Re: CAC Recommendations and Comments on Presiding Officer; Council Committee System
Date: June 2, 2005

PRESIDING OFFICER -- CAC DISCUSSION

► The argument for a strong presiding officer (as proposed by Dewey Square) is to increase potential for greater stability, efficiency, and political strength within the city council.

► The argument for a more limited role for a presiding officer is to increase opportunity for wider participation and representation among all council districts, with the goal of greater equity and more diverse agendas.

► <u>There was near unanimous CAC endorsement for a compromise alternative to create a genuine balance between council efficiency and democratic representation. This alternative involves the creation of a 3-member procedural committee:</u>

> The presiding officer should be the permanent chair of a 3-member procedural committee, which would replace the rules committee. The 2 other members of the committee would serve on a rotating basis. The committee would have 2 basic functions: to approve items for docketing and to refer items to appropriate committees.

> Depending on the rotation schedule, all council members (aside from the presiding officer) would have the opportunity to serve on the committee for at least 2 rounds per year, providing the opportunity for accountable legislative management by <u>all</u> council districts.

(Note: this was a critical issue for the CAC. While some members favored a 2-yr term with no term limits, other members approved a 2-yr non-renewable term under the powers recommended by the consultant, but only if the PO position rotated each term by district as a means of ensuring fair representation for all council districts in the long run. The procedural committee alternative gained greatest support.)

► A majority of CAC members recommend the following actions -- contingent on the establishment of a procedural committee -- with the understanding that improvements to council rules will be possible once the new government system is in place. <u>CAC alternative recommendations are underlined as follows:</u>

Re. Presiding Officer

1. Selection: by majority vote of council -- concur

2. Removal: by majority vote of council

3. Term of office: CAC majority agreed that a 2-yr renewable term would be acceptable only if a procedural committee was in place as a mechanism to ensure balance

4. Duties:
    * Chair meetings of the council -- concur
    * Manage docketing process through procedural committee
    * Coordinate closed session docket with mayor and CA -- concur
    * Fill mayoral vacancy -- concur
    * Select pro tem by council majority
    * Appoint committee chairs, subject to majority approval -- concur
    * Refer matters to council committee through procedural committee
    * Enforce rules of council -- concur
    * Consent agenda developed by procedural committee
    * Request info: no majority position taken
    * Call special meetings: no majority position taken
    * Represent council -- concur
    * Appts to boards&agencies: PO with council approval

COUNCIL COMMITTEE SYSTEM

1. Number of standing committees: 5-6
    * Concur with the recommendations of the Chair and Dewey Square to retain the continuity of LU&H, NR&C, and PS&NS
    * Support retention of Open & Efficient Government Committee
    * Support a Budget & Finance Committee
    * Recommend a Procedural Committee to replace present rules committee

2. Committee representation:
    * Chairs nominated by the PO, confirmed by council majority – concur
    * Members nominated by PO, confirmed by council majority -- concur
    * 3 members per committee
    * Term: 1yr renewable – concur

3. Committee staffing:
    Committee consultant in conjunction with staff from offices of legislative analysis and budget analyst

4. Committee process:
    * Procedural committee refers matters to committees.
    * Committee chairs determine calendar and agenda – concur